

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~method of treating~~ treatment procedure for disc herniation or degenerative disc disease in a patient, including the step of:

injecting tissue growth factors or differentiation factors into the central spinal canal or disc as part of the treatment procedure.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the [[step]] steps of: ~~concentrating and releasing the growth or differentiation factors from a patient's blood~~ withdrawing a volume of blood from the patient; and obtaining the growth or differentiation factors from the volume of blood.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of:
obtaining the growth or differentiation factors from recombinant genetic techniques or animal sources.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~including the step of selecting~~ wherein the growth factor is BMP-1 and differentiation factors from the following list:

~~TGF α , β 1, 2; EGF, IGF I; PDGF; FGF; IL 1, 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ... n; BMP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8B, 9, 12, 13, ... n; VEGF; and recombinant forms thereof.~~

5. (Previously Added; Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the factor injected into the spinal canal or disc is a transforming growth factor.

6. (Previously Added; Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the factor injected into the spinal canal or disc is an interleukin.

7. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the factor injected into the spinal canal or disc is a bone morphogenic protein.